

significant because it makes you a stronger person by realizing the significance of self control, discipline, and restricting ones desires.

The last pillar is making the pilgrimage to Makkah, Saudi Arabia. This pilgrimage is called Hajj. The holiest mosque is in Makkah, Masjid-al-Haram. Hajj occurs only once a year during the twelfth month of the Islamic calendar. It is required that you perform Hajj at least once in your lifetime if one can financially afford it.

The prophet of Islam is Muhammad (peace be upon him). He was born in Makkah, Saudi Arabia in 570 BCE. In 610 BCE, the angel Gabriel carried the revelation from God and brought it down to Muhammad (peace be upon him). After a period of time, these revelations were placed into one book called the Qur'an.

I hope this information, though very basic, would at least provoke some thought process towards efforts to better understand Islam.

I appreciate very much Sanaa sending me this letter. I hope everyone in the Senate will become familiar with her letter and become familiar with the tenets of her religion.

I have been on the floor before, speaking about Islam and what a great religion it is. I have said before and I repeat that my wife's primary physicians are two members of the Islamic faith, her internist and the person who has performed surgery on her. I know them well. I have been in their homes. I have socialized with them. I have talked about very serious things with them. We have helped each other with family problems.

I have been to the new mosque with them in Las Vegas. They are wonderful people with great families. I have come to realize Islam is a good religion; it is a good way of life. Muslims maintain a good health code as their religion dictates, and they have great spiritual values as their religion dictates. It is too bad there are some people—evil people around the world—who would target the innocent in the name of Islam.

I believe that the strength of Islam, and the faith and fortitude of more than one billion Muslims around the world, will overcome these evil people and their evil deeds.

(The remarks of Mr. REID pertaining to the introduction of S. 1566 are located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Mr. REID. Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. ALLEN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### EMILY COURIC

Mr. ALLEN. Madam President, I rise this afternoon on a very sad note. We lost a State senator from Virginia, Emily Couric.

For those who knew Emily Couric, and for those who worked with Emily Couric and followed her life and her battles, we all know we have lost a fine person. We have lost an articulate, passionate, and inspirational leader.

Emily Couric passed away today, October 18. She had been a State senator in the 25th District of Virginia since after her election in 1995. That is an area around Charlottesville, Albemarle County, Greene County, Madison County, Orange County, and Nelson County—generally the Piedmont area of Virginia.

She passed away of pancreatic cancer today in her home in Charlottesville.

She served in the State senate while I served as the Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

She was recognized by all on both sides of the aisle as a leader—especially in her areas of greatest concern, which were health care and education.

Before serving in the State senate, she served on the school board in the city of Charlottesville, and indeed before getting elected to the State senate was chairman of the school board.

She had many accomplishments, such as establishing advanced mathematics and technology diploma seals for those high school graduates. Picture that—encouraging students to do even more than what is just enough to get by. But if they wanted to do even more, they could add an advanced mathematics and technology aspect to their education.

She was also a leader in supporting research and rehabilitation for victims of spinal cord injuries and traumatic brain injuries.

She was a leader in the Democrat Party in Virginia. Had she not contracted pancreatic cancer, she would right now certainly be running for Lieutenant Governor on the Democrat ticket. She explored that race. But she was diagnosed with cancer back in July of last year—2000. She was certainly regarded as a frontrunner and would not have had any opposition whatsoever in her party. I would certainly guess that she would probably have won very easily. But she had to withdraw from the race because she had to undergo treatment for the pancreatic cancer.

Nevertheless, she didn't want to get out of what she cared about, which was serving the people. Indeed, she served as the general chair of the Democrat Party of Virginia, and undertook that responsibility in December of 2000.

She served on many committees in the State senate, such as the Education and Health Committee, the Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources Committee, and the Rehabilitation and Social Services Committee.

She served in a variety of areas, but she did not just serve Virginia, she served the region. She served not only in the legislature, but on the Southern Regional Education Board and the Southern Legislative Conference Education Committee, as well as other policy committees.

As I said, prior to her election, she did serve on the Charlottesville School Board from 1985 to 1991, including one term as chairman. She served on a lot of community boards and organizations. She was a member of the Charlottesville Boys & Girls Club, the Charlottesville Area School Business Alliance, the Jefferson Area Board for Aging, the Virginia National Bank, the Virginia Festival of the Book, the Heritage Repertory Theater, Camp Holiday Trails, and various other activities in the community. Until her last breath, you knew her passion was for all these ideas, but especially those that would benefit youngsters with their health, their education, and their future opportunities.

She was born in Atlanta, GA. She moved to Virginia in 1951. She was a graduate of Yorktown High School in Arlington, VA, right across the river from us.

She received her bachelor of arts from Smith College and graduated with honors, magna cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa, and Sigma Xi from Smith College.

Expressing for my colleague and myself, and I think all Senators and anybody who knew Emily Couric, our prayers and thoughts are with her husband, Dr. George Beller of Charlottesville, VA, her son Ray Wadlow—he is a doctor—and her daughter-in-law Jessica of Philadelphia, PA; and her son Jeff Wadlow of Los Angeles, CA.

She is also survived by her parents Elinor and John Couric of Arlington, VA; her siblings, Clara Couric Batchelor, John Couric, Jr., and, of course, one we know and see every morning, Katie Couric; her step children, Michael Beller, Amy Beller, and Leslie Beller; and also seven nieces and nephews; and two step-grandchildren.

We will all miss Emily Couric. Regardless of our political parties, Emily Couric was an inspiration. Her life really embodied her true dedication to her fellow human beings.

Once she was diagnosed with this terrible cancer, she kept fighting. She did not give up. She is an inspiration and her spirit lives on. All of us have been blessed to have known her; and, indeed, future generations will have healthier, better lives because Emily Couric cared enough to devote a great deal of her lifetime to public service and the betterment of others.

Mr. WARNER. Will the Senator yield for a moment?

Mr. ALLEN. I am pleased to yield.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The senior Senator from Virginia.

Mr. WARNER. Madam President, I associate myself with my colleague's remarks. I say to Senator ALLEN, indeed, you knew her very well. I had come to know her in later years.

The Presiding Officer might be interested in this little story. I had a chance to be with her about 6 or 8 months ago, it seems to me, when she won an award in Northern Virginia and I was sort of the toastmaster of that evening. We